

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-24 remain pending in the application, with Claims 1, 7, 12, 13, 23 and 24 being independent. Claims 1, 7, 12, 13, 23 and 24 have been amended herein. The claim changes have not been made for any reasons related to patentability.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,838,342 (Takahashi et al.). Claims 3 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0003458 (Shioya). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In the image forming apparatus of Takahashi et al., density unevenness is corrected by first forming a test image and then reading the test image to obtain average density data. Based on the value of the average density, a common correction is performed for drive signals for the printing heads. That is, as understood by Applicants, Takahashi et al. corrects an image formed by a plurality of dots ejected by individual nozzles by reading the density; Takahashi et al. does not measure the landing state of each of the dots by measuring the landing state corresponding to each of the nozzles.

Accordingly, Takahashi et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least generating nozzle information representing an ejection characteristic of each nozzle according to a result of measuring a landing state of each of dots formed by ink droplets which are

ejected from the nozzles of a printhead onto the print medium by measuring the landing state corresponding to each of the nozzles, as is recited in independent Claims 1 and 7.

Further, Takahashi et al. does not disclose or suggest at least the dot deviation correction according to an amount of deviation, with the amount of deviation being an amount which is obtained according to a result of measuring a landing state of each of dots formed by ink droplets ejected from nozzles of a printhead onto a print medium by measuring the landing state corresponding to each of the nozzles, as is recited in independent Claims 12, 13, 23 and 24.

Thus, Takahashi et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

In Shioya, an adjustment method or a complementing process is performed depending upon whether a difference S is a small or large increase. However, Shioya is not believed to remedy the deficiencies of Takahashi et al. noted above with respect to the independent claims.

Thus, independent Claims 1, 7, 12, 13, 23 and 24 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 7, 12, 13, 23 and 24. Dependent Claims 2-6, 8-11 and 14-22 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark A. Williamson
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 33,628

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
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